

Steve Westly California State Controller



Contact:

Lisa Casalegno or Stacey Ragland
(916) 445-2636

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

www.sco.ca.gov

CONTROLLER WESTLY CALLS FOR JUSTICE FOR WRONGLY IMPRISONED MAN

Sacramento, September 19, 2003 – State Controller Steve Westly, a member of the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (Board), today led the Board in a vote to pay Rick Walker, an East Palo Alto man, \$428,000 after he was wrongly imprisoned for murder.

“Mr. Walker lost his freedom for 12 years and will never recover that time away from family and friends,” Westly said. “We cannot change the past, but the State can partially compensate Mr. Walker for all that he has suffered.”

The Board voted unanimously today to award Mr. Walker \$421,000. The Controller’s representative initially made a motion in favor of Mr. Walker receiving \$428,000 appropriated by the Legislature, however, that motion failed. Mr. Walker filed a wrongful imprisonment claim with the Board this past summer.

In a letter to the Board’s executive director, Westly thanked the Board for its cooperation to ensure Mr. Walker’s case be placed on the Agenda today, and asked the Board to expedite the necessary paperwork so Mr. Walker receives his money as soon as possible.

“A horrible injustice has been committed against Mr. Walker,” said Westly. “The issue of compensation should be dealt with quickly.”

###